

# The Pipeline

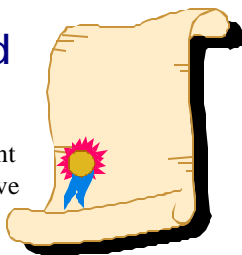
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## Two Honored for Service to Disabled

By Mike Jennings, CFC Communications

Two administrators for CFC's Department for Disability Determination Services have been honored by the Social Security Administration for their years of service to the disabled people of Kentucky.



Kenneth Adelson, who supervises the department's computer system staff, received a citation last month from Kenneth Nibali, the national agency's associate commissioner of disability. Vicki Sutherland, who heads the state department's staff development and training section, was due to receive a citation May 5 from Myrtle S. Habersham, commissioner of the Social Security Administration's Atlanta region.

An employee of Disability Determination Services for more than 26 years, Adelson has spent the past 15 years overseeing the department's budget and computer operations. He planned every detail of the recent installation of the department's new computer system and made sure that work did not suffer because of it.

Sutherland, a department employee since 1985, also played a key part in the rapid adjustment to the new computer system. She steeped herself in the system's technicalities, then designed a training program that ensured a smooth transition to its use.

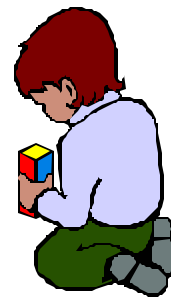
In 1999, Sutherland was detailed to help the Social Security Administration's national Office of Disability in Baltimore implement new guidelines for ruling on disability claims. Her work proved so valuable that the national office asked to keep her there an additional two weeks.

**Pipeline**, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinet for Families and Children, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for Pipeline are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at [Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us)

## May is National Foster Care Month

By Margaret Davis Harney, CFC Communications

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to build public awareness of the needs of foster children, and to recognize foster parents. CFC is planning activities throughout the month in appreciation of its Department for Community Based Services' foster parents.



A display honoring each region's outstanding foster parent or foster couple was set up this week at the Capitol rotunda, where it will remain all month. All those featured in the display are recipients of the 2000 Excellence in Service Award, created by DCBS in 1999 to recognize outstanding caregivers.

Many local and regional events are planned, but the highlight of the month will be a statewide event at General Butler State Park on Foster Parent Appreciation Day, May 24.

Approximately 6,000 foster children are cared for by DCBS each year, many of them because of abuse or neglect in the biological home.

## New Lights Being Installed Around CHR Complex

This spring, employees leaving work late at night will see the light better than ever. The installation of about 12 new, taller lamp posts beside the front steps and around the building is part of the complex's security package upgrade, Maintenance Supervisor Phil Adkins said. The 20-foot posts each will have two lights and will look similar to the light posts already surrounding the parking lot, he said.



Installation should be complete by the end of May, Adkins said, and the few weeks of upgrading will add up to extra safety. "We should see a big difference in the lighting once it's completed."

# Easy Part's Done

By Lisa Aug, CFC Communications

With the new executive pod on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the CHR Building virtually complete, now comes the tricky part: renovating and remodeling the 99,000-square-foot First City complex.

"There's not an easy way to do this," says Van Davis, manager of CFC's Leasing and Design and Moving Services Branch. His branch and Disability Determination Services have been working together to minimize the disruption of a complex renovation.



About 100 Division of Child Support employees moved out of the First City complex to Schenkel Lane last week, opening up

about 45 percent of the space in the building. About 325 DDS and KASES employees remain at First City, crammed into barely half the building. DDS workers are especially cramped, many of them squeezed into mini-cubicles barely six feet by six feet.

The ultimate goal is to spread about DDS and KASES employees throughout the space, but first we have to replace the heavily stained and deeply worn carpet, and that presents the first obstacle.

"Our concern is fumes and dust," Davis says.

Unlike the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor construction which minimized dust and odors with a plastic-enclosed, vented space, however, replacing carpet at First City will have to take place in the open. The ventilation system there cannot be segregated; rather than removing dust and odors, it would disperse them throughout the building.

Therefore Leasing and Design will try to keep DDS staff as far as possible from the open area where they will start replacing the carpet. KASES staff will move into enclosed training rooms and offices. "We're going to try to bring in some fans and try to use a low-toxic glue," Davis says.

Another complication at First City is the "hanging" model of furniture in most DDS cubicles. Desks, file drawers and shelves are not free-standing but connected to the walls. This requires us to disassemble each cubicle and rebuild it in a new space – a process more complicated and time-consuming than simply moving desks and chairs.

The complexity of the move and renovation at First City means that many employees there will have to move twice, unlike those involved in the Great CFC-CHS Floor Swap in the CHR building, who should only have to move once.

But the end result should be worth the temporary inconvenience for staff at First City. By fall, they will be able to enjoy a cleaner, more spacious and welcoming environment than they have known for some time.

*Disability Determination Services employees in cramped cubicles, like the one at right, will be moved throughout the space (pictured left) recently vacated by Child Support.*



## Sessions to Strengthen Employee Connections

By Dean Crawford, CFC KAMES

Quality Central Connection, formerly known as the central office Vision 2000 Communications Committee, is sponsoring a series of discussions to strengthen connections among CFC's Frankfort employees.

The sessions, called Let's Talk, will encourage staff to talk about any work-related problems and solutions. Work groups will then form to study problems identified during the sessions. As groups work toward resolving the identified problems, Quality Central Connection will issue a weekly report of their progress in Pipeline.

Let's Talk sessions will be held May 15 – 19 at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Sites include the CHR Complex cafeteria, the CFC Training Center, the First City Complex Conference Room and the auditorium of the Health Services Building, but all dates and times are not available at every location.

Each session is designed for a maximum of 40 participants, and pre-registration is requested. Quality Central Connection provided sign-up sheets at informational booths May 4-5. You may also register by e-mail to Dean Crawford of KAMES, or you may call him at 273-1409. Attendance will count as two hours toward the annual employee training requirement of 20 hours.

Let's Talk sessions will be followed by a New Beginning Celebration May 25, also sponsored by Quality Central Connection. Watch Pipeline for more information.